



**Illinois
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State of Illinois Partners with Evernym to Launch Birth Registration Pilot

*Illinois Blockchain Initiative and self-sovereign identity leader Evernym
partner to develop secure identity solutions on distributed ledger
technology*

CHICAGO/ SALT LAKE CITY—Today the [Illinois Blockchain Initiative](#) announced its partnership with self-sovereign identity solutions leader [Evernym](#), leveraging distributed ledger technology to provide secure digital identity solutions. The concept will augment work from the [W3C's Verifiable Claims Task Force](#) and use the [Sovrin Foundation's](#) distributed identity ledger to create a secure, "self-sovereign" identity for Illinois citizens during the birth registration process.

A formal announcement will be made on Sept. 1 by Evernym's Chief Trust Officer Drummond Reed at the [MyData2017](#) Conference in Helsinki, Finland.

Self-sovereign identity refers to a digital identity that remains entirely under the individual's control. A self-sovereign identity can be efficiently and securely validated by entities who require it, free from reliance on a centralized repository.

Jennifer O'Rourke, Blockchain Business Liaison for the Illinois Blockchain Initiative commented, "To structurally address the many issues surrounding digital identity, we felt it was important to develop a framework that examines identity from its inception at child birth. Government has an important role to play in the development of any digital identity ecosystem. Identity is not only foundational to nearly every government service, but is the basis for trust and legitimacy in the public sector."

In the proposed framework, government agencies will verify birth registration information and then cryptographically sign identity attributes such as legal name, date of birth, sex or blood type, creating what are called "verifiable claims" or attributes. Permission to view or share each of these government-verified claims is stored on the tamper-proof distributed ledger protocol in the form of a decentralized identifier. The identifier guarantees each attribute is

cryptographically sealed and only accessible with explicit consent of the identity holder or in the case of a newborn child, his or her legal guardian.

Businesses and governments will be able to verify and authenticate citizens by requesting encrypted access to these verifiable claims. This minimizes the need for entities to establish, maintain and rely upon their own proprietary databases of identity information.

“This architecture allows us to bridge the best of both worlds, combining government’s robust infrastructure for identity verification with a platform engineered for the digital identity ecosystem. This digital identity system is extensible, interoperable and at the same time ensures the utmost security, privacy and user-agency,” said Cab Morris of the Illinois Blockchain Initiative. “Additionally, this model for digital identity can extend beyond the boundaries of government and has broad applicability for many products and services in the private sector.”

“The successful transition to an identity ecosystem that is truly self-sovereign requires conversion of ‘breeder documents’, such as birth certificates, which serve as the basis for obtaining other documents,” said Evernym’s Drummond Reed. “Digitizing these foundational documents in a state the size and importance of Illinois will make a major contribution to the larger effort of solving the online identity problem.”

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About the Illinois Blockchain Initiative

The Illinois Blockchain Initiative is designed to be a collaborative effort and position Illinois as a leader in blockchain innovation. The State invites all government entities, businesses, organizations and academia interested in participating in this exciting opportunity to contact either: Cab Morris, Deputy Director of Strategy and Operational Performance Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation at richard.morris@illinois.gov or Jennifer O’Rourke, Illinois Blockchain Business Liaison, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity at jennifer.orourke@illinois.gov.

About Evernym

Founded in 2013, Evernym develops software solutions that leverage distributed ledgers to provide every individual, organization and connected device with secure and irrevocable identity. Learn more about Evernym and its self-sovereign identity solutions at evernym.com.